CLAIMS

We claim:

1. A system for processing applications from customers for manufacture of vehicle parts by a manufacturer, comprising:

a first server configured to generate an application interface on a customer client in communication with said first server through a first network and to receive a first completed application for manufacture of a first part of a vehicle from said customer through said customer client using said application interface, said first completed application having information including a first set of information regarding operating conditions of said vehicle, a second set of information defining specifications for said first part, and a third set of information regarding a second part of said vehicle functionally interrelated with said first part of said vehicle.

2. The system of claim 1, further comprising:

a second server in communication with said first server over one of said first network and a second network; and,

a database that stores said information, said database accessible by said second server.

3. The system of claim 1 wherein said second network comprises an intranet.

4. The system of claim 1, further comprising a data structure that associates said first completed application with an approval agent, said first server further configured to access said data structure and transmit an application notification to said approval agent upon receipt of said completed application.

5. The system of claim 4 wherein said data structure associates said application with said approval agent based on an identity of said customer.

6. The system of claim 4 wherein said application notification includes an electronic link to said first completed application.

7. The system of claim 1 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit an approval notification to said customer client if said information in said first completed application meets predetermined conditions and to transmit an application notification to an approval agent if said information in said first completed application does not meet said predetermined conditions.

8. The system of claim 1 wherein said first server is further configured to authenticate first and second forms of identification for said customer received from said customer client and that said first form of identification corresponds to said second form of identification.

9. The system of claim 8 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit said second form of identification corresponding to said first form of identification to a predetermined location designated by said customer upon receipt of said first form of identification from said customer through said customer client.

10. The system of claim 1 wherein said application interface includes a plurality of tabs having identifiers, each tab of said plurality of tabs corresponding to a category of requested information from among a plurality of categories of requested information regarding said first part of said vehicle, said plurality of tabs displayed simultaneously by said customer client together with one category of requested information from said plurality of categories of requested information, said one category of requested information selected responsive to a selection of one of said plurality of tabs by said customer through said customer client.

11. The system of claim 10 wherein said plurality of tabs are displayed in a plurality of rows, each row of said plurality of rows containing at least two tabs of said plurality of tabs.

12. The system of claim 10 wherein each category of said plurality of categories of requested information includes at least one field and said first server is further configured to generate a notification to said customer when said customer selects a new category of requested information and a value in a field of a previously selected category of requested information fails to meet a predetermined condition.

13. The system of claim 10 wherein each category of said plurality of categories of requested information includes at least one field and said first server is further configured to generate a first value for a first field responsive to receipt of a second value for a second field from said customer client.

14. The system of claim 13 wherein said first field and said second field are both in a single category of requested information among said plurality of categories of requested information.

15. The system of claim 13 wherein said first field and said second field are in different categories of requested information among said plurality of categories of requested information.

16. The system of claim 10 wherein at least one category of said plurality of categories of requested information includes at least one field and said at least one field includes a menu offering a plurality of possible values for said at least one field.

17. The system of claim 10 wherein said application interface includes an indicator indicating, simultaneously for each of said plurality of categories of requested information, whether said first server has received all requested information in said category of requested information.

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18.	The system of claim 17 wherein said indicator displays one of two colors for each of said plurality of categories of requested information.

19.	The system of claim 17 wherein said indicator includes a plurality of members corresponding to said plurality of tabs, said plurality of members ordered in the same manner as said plurality of tabs.

20.	The system of claim 1 wherein said vehicle part is one of a steer axle, a drive axle, a trailer axle and a brake.

21.	The system of claim 1 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit to said customer client, responsive to a request received from said customer client, an electronic link to a prior application of said customer.

22.	The system of claim 21 wherein said prior application comprises a second completed application.

23.	The system of claim 21 wherein said prior application comprises an incomplete application.

24.	The system of claim 21 wherein said first server is further configured, responsive to a request received from said customer client, to create a new application by copying said prior application

25.	The system of claim 1 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit to said customer client, responsive to a request received from said customer client, electronic links to prior applications of said customer and to order said electronic links in accordance with one of a plurality of criteria selected by said customer through said customer client.

26   The system of claim 1 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit an approval notification to said customer upon review of said first completed application by an approval agent of said manufacturer.

27.   The system of claim 26 wherein said approval notification includes an electronic link to said first completed application.

28.   The system of claim 1 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit to said customer client, responsive to a request received from said customer client, electronic links to a subset of prior applications of said customer, said subset created responsive to search data provided by said customer.

29.   The system of claim 1, further comprising a manufacturer client in communication with said first server over one of said first network and a second network.

30.   The system of claim 29 wherein said first server transmits an application notification to said manufacturer client upon receipt of said first completed application.

31.   The system of claim 30 wherein said application notification includes an electronic link to said first completed application.

32.   The system of claim 29 wherein said first server is further configured to transmit to said manufacturer client first and second electronic links to said first completed application and a second completed application, respectively, each of said first and second completed applications associated with an approval agent.

33.   The system of claim 32 wherein said first server is further configured to order said first and second electronic links in accordance with one of a plurality of criteria selected by said approval agent through said manufacturer client.

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